

# NEWPORT GULLS BASEBALL

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*"RAISING THE BAR IN SUMMER COLLEGIATE BASEBALL"*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Gulls Take Surprising Defeat In Game One

**Newport, RI**-The Sanford Mainers struck three times against Brad Mincey in the fourth inning as the Mainers took game one of the Eastern Division Finals, sending the Newport Gulls on the brink of elimination as they are one game away from vanishing from the 2009 New England Collegiate Baseball League playoffs.

The game looked promising for the Gulls as they scored first in the first inning against Sanford starter Chad O'Connor. Third baseman Joey Bergman hit a double with two outs, and then reached home when the next batter Aaron Westlake smoked a single by the first baseman.

In the fourth inning, Mincey met some trouble. With Spatkowski at second base, manager Aaron Izaryk called for the sacrifice bunt, advancing Spatkowski to third. The Gulls conceded the run as they played the infield back as first baseman Mike Roth grounded out to the second baseman Greg Garcia.

Mincey looked to get out of the inning with no other damage but he surrendered back to back hits, putting runners at second and third. Catcher Bob Stumpo came up next and the 6-3 lefty pulled the ball right at first baseman Troy Scott who couldn't handle the tricky hop. On the play, both runners from second and third scored giving the Mainers an early 3-1 lead.

Mincey ended the game pitching seven innings while giving up three runs, one earned. He struck out five Sanford batters while walking just one on six hits.

Newport responded in the fifth inning by scoring a run. With bases loaded and one out, Scott skied a fly ball to left field that was misplayed by the left fielder Kyle Groth. Groth recovered by getting a force out at third base as centerfielder Sean Paino scored the Gulls second run of the game.

Geoff Nichols relieved Mincey in the eighth inning but couldn't keep the Mainers down. After getting the first batter to ground out, shortstop Corey Thompson doubled off of Nichols. Two batters later, Nichols gave up a single to Matt Marra, scoring Thompson to give Sanford the two run lead.

The eighth inning was the inning when the Gulls came back in game one against the New Bedford Bay Sox in the first round of the playoffs as they scored eight runs in that inning. The Gulls did push one run across the board when Paino grounded out but could not finish the comeback as they still trailed 4-3.

In the ninth inning, Aaron Westlake led things off with a walk but scheduled game two starter Will Clinard retired the next three batters, including two strikeouts, to end the game.

The Newport Gulls will try and fight off elimination as they will play tomorrow, August 6, in Sanford, Maine against the Mainers at 6:30 in game two of the series. If the Gulls win, game three will be held at 6:35 at Cardines Field in Newport on August 7.

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